

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1–45. (Canceled)

46. (Currently Amended) A method of operating an information storage system comprising:
positioning the read head to a first position where no user data is stored proximate a storage media;

comparing a value of an evaluation parameter to a predetermined level; and

initiating a head cleaning when the evaluation parameter exceeds the predetermined level;

and

positioning the read head to a second position over a reserved track when the evaluation parameter does not exceed the predetermined level.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, further comprising repositioning the read head to the first position after head cleaning and redetecting the value of the evaluation parameter.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the first position is on a loading track.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the evaluation parameter is a position error signal.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the evaluation parameter is fly height.

51. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 46, further comprising:
~~positioning the read head to a second position over a reserved track when the evaluation parameter does not exceed the predetermined level;~~
comparing a value of a second evaluation parameter to a predetermined level; and
parking the read head and generating an error condition when the second evaluation parameter exceeds the predetermined level.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, further comprising moving the read head for normal operation when the second evaluation parameter does not exceed the predetermined level.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the second evaluation parameter is the soft error rate.

54. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein said reserved track includes a radially inner portion of a disk.

55. (New) The method of claim 54, wherein data stored in said radially inner portion of the disk are highly susceptible to errors.